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SUBJECT: OFFICIAL EGYPTIAN REACTIONS TO ISRAELI STRIKE IN IRAQ
REFS: (A) FBIS NC082222, (B) FBIS NC 081728, (C) FBIS NC082118
SUMMARY. OFFICIAL EGYPTIAN STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE ISRAELI AIR STRIKE ON IRAQ'S NUCLEAR REACTOR HAVE BEEN
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SWIFT AND CONDEMNATORY, REFLECTING GRAVE CONCERN AT WHAT IS LABELED "FLAGRANT, UNJUSTIFIED, AND ILLEGAL ISRAELI AGGRESSION". GOE STATEMENTS EXPRESS CONCERN THAT THE ACTION WILL SET BACK EFFORTS TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. DISMAY IS ALSO EXPRESSED THAT ISRAELI ACTION SHOULD HAVE FOLLOWED SO CLOSELY THE RECENT SADAT/BEGIN MEETING IN SHARM EL SHEIKH. END SUMMARY.
1. YESTERDAY, IMMEDIATELY UPON HEARING NEWS OF THE ISRAELI AIR STRIKE IN IRAQ, FORMIN ALI MADE A BRIEF STATEMENT IN WHICH HE DESCRIBED THE STRIKE AS A "SERIOUS CRIME". THIS MORNING (MAY 9), AT PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY'S REQUEST, FORMIN ALI PROVIDED THE ASSEMBLY GOE OFFICIAL REACTION TO THE ISRAELI ATTACK. IN A STRONGLY WORDED ADDRESS, ALI STATED THAT EGYPT CANNOT ADOPT A PASSIVE POSITION TOWARD THIS DEVELOPMENT AND DECLARED ISRAEL RESPONSIBLE FOR A

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GRAVE ESCALATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. HE TERMED ISRAEL'S ACTS SHAMEFUL, UNJUSTIFIABLE AND IRRESPONSIBLE. HE EXPRESSED DEEP REGRET THAT THE AGGRESSION OCCURRED ONLY A FEW DAYS AFTER THE SHARM EL SHEIKH MEETING TO WHICH EGYPT AGREED AS PART OF HER EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A SECURE, COMPREHENSIVE PEACE. ALI REJECTED ISRAEL'S ALLEGATIONS THAT AN IRAQI NUCLEAR THREAT EXISTED, POINTING OUT THAT IRAQ HAD SUBJECTED ITS NUCLEAR OPERATIONS TO IAEA SUPERVISION.

2. LATE JUNE 8 OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY, IN AN EXCEPTIONAL ACTION, ISSUED A STATEMENT DENOUNCING THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON IRAQ AS "A PROVOCATIVE ACT DEVOID OF ANY LEGAL BASIS, WHICH VIOLATES INTERNATIONAL LAW AND CONTRADICTS THE SPIRIT OF PEACE." STATEMENT ADDS THAT ISRAELI ACT WILL ENTAIL AN ESCALATION OF TENSION IN THE AREA AND HARM PEACE AND STABILITY.

3. PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT CONCLUDES AS FOLLOWS: "SUCH UNJUSTIFIED ACTIONS SERVE TO ENHANCE HATRED AMONG THE PEOPLE AND INSTILL FEELINGS OF CONFLICT AND PARADOX AT A TIME WHEN WE ARE IN A DIRE NEED FOR SPREADING THE MEANING OF AND THE BELIEF IN PEACE AS THE ONLY WAY FOR A MORE STABLE AND SECURE FUTURE. HENCE, THE ISRAELI AGGRESSION TAKES OUR AREA ONE STEP BACK, HARMS THE PEACE PROCESS, AND OPENS THE WAY FOR MORE OBSTACLES IN THE PATH OF AN OVERALL PEACE, WHICH SHOULD BE THE SUPREME AIM OF ALL THE PARTIES BECAUSE THIS IS THE FOREMOST DEMAND OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE STRUGGLING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW."

EGYPT, WHICH HAS EMBARKED ON THE INITIATIVE FOR A JUST AND OVERALL PEACE AND WHICH HAS DECISIVELY CONFRONTED THE CHALLENGES OF PEACE, FINDS IT IMPERATIVE TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE PERIL INHERENT IN COMMITTING SUCH ACTS AND TO THE DIRE CONSEQUENCES EMANATING FROM THEM, WHICH CONTRADICT THE REQUISITES OF THE DELICATE PHASE THROUGH WHICH THE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A DURABLE AND OVERALL PEACE IN THE AREA ARE PASSING. WENDT